3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
SD6 Cayapa SD6

addition to the foregoing food-producing plants, 246
there are various others that are valuable for other materials which they produce. One of these is cotton, called kû'a. The Cayapa are expert weavers and in 286
large measure produce all their own material. Their [439]
textiles are made almost entirely of cotton, the only wool used being that obtained from the Quichua of the higher Andes, or in these days from the yarn of commerce. The yarn used by the Cayapa is always red or blue, and is employed for the sake of the colors, not for the material itself. They grow a white and also a brown cotton, the 248
former being, according to their statements, an intro- [386]
duced species, the latter an indigenous one. These, together with the green and lavender dyes and the two colors of yarn, give them a total of six native colors. Cotton is usually grown from the seed, and requires little attention when once the plants have attained a fair size. Only a few plants of either the white or the brown cotton are grown by any one family, but they bloom perpetually and are sufficient to produce all the raw material needed. The cotton is allowed to mature completely, that is until the bolls have opened and the ripe cotton is nearly ready to fall. It is then gathered (being in the condition shown in pl. CVII, 11), thoroughly dried, and stored away in packages (such as that shown in fig. 12 of the same plate), and wrapped in leaves of the hoja blanca, until needed for spinning. To a limited extent also the [272]
cotton plant is used in making a beverage, the leaves being boiled after the manner of tea.

Tobacco is considerably used by the Cayapa, but never 276

Barrett E-5 (1903-1909)1925
SD6 Cayapa SD6

these acts, combined with the spraying and smoking, gradually drive the spirits from the locality.

Another important product of this region is pita, called sa nō, by the Cayapa, a plant resembling somewhat the yucca of the Southwestern desert region of the United States, but with leaves which sometimes reach a length of fifteen or sixteen feet. It is usually grown at some distance back from the river, and seems to thrive best in the dense shade of the jungle. When once well started it requires very little attention other than the cutting away of undergrowth and clearing of the field which is incidental to the harvesting of the leaves. These leaves yield long, very strong fibers, called sañ bu'tyū, which are twisted into two-ply strings. These are much used in net-making, in binding the selvage of textiles, for fish-lines, and for a variety of other purposes where very strong cord is required. The leaves are cut close to the ground and brought to the house in bundles such as those illustrated in pl. LXVI, where a large and a small bundle of the freshly cut, long leaves are shown leaning against the side of the house. Each leaf yields a large number of fibers, the laborious preparation of which will be discussed in speaking of string-making.

While pita is the strongest material and is considered the best from all points of view, there is another material, called in the local Spanish cosadera and in Cayapa señgi'lya, which is used especially where string or rope of large diameter and of moderate strength is desired, such as for hammocks. This material is derived from the bark of a tree and is obtained by heating in a manner

3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
SD 6 Cayapa SD6

ends of all the elements are cut off in the same manner as was done in making the end with which the mat was begun.

Mats of this kind are most frequently used by the Cayapa in the hammocks which serve as cradles. A small mat is placed crosswise in the hammock and holds its edges apart; the baby is then laid upon this mat and swung in the hammock as a cradle. Large mats are occasionally used as beds, but for this purpose bark cloth is preferred. An important use for mats also is as a drying surface upon which to spread cacao. In canoeing, a large mat serves as a canopy or sun covering for small children or for an invalid. If its ends are placed just inside the gunwales of the canoe, bow upward, a mat forms a convenient and very serviceable canopy by virtue of its natural stiffness. An instance of such a use is shown in pl. LXXX.

SPINNING

As was mentioned in speaking of agricultural products, the Cayapa raise considerable quantities of cotton, that is to say, all the cotton needed for weaving the cloth used for their mantas and clouts and for the belts used to hold the mantas in place. No one family raises any considerable number of plants, since a single plant produces almost continuously the year round and aggregates in the course of a year a considerable quantity of bolls. These plants are grown in any convenient place near the house or on the edge of a field of cane or of a grove of chocolate trees.

3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
SD 6 Cayapa SD6

248 The cotton ordinarily grown in this section is of a brownish color, and it is claimed by the Cayapa that this is indigenous. It must be said, however, that brown cotton rarely grows wild along the river or in the mountains, but is seen almost exclusively about inhabited places or the sites of recently abandoned habitations.

The second variety of cotton is pure white and is also grown by the Cayapa to a limited extent. It is maintained that this is not a native plant, but is a direct importation from the mountain region or from the Rio Esmeraldas territory. In fact, this white cotton is now sometimes purchased by the Cayapa in their trips to the Rio Esmeraldas, because so little of it is grown along their own river.

When the cotton bolls open and the seeds with their covering of fine fibers are almost ready to drop, they are gathered and, if necessary, dried. The contents of two of these fully opened bolls are shown in pl. CVII, 11. It is frequently desirable to store the cotton away in this form for some time, in which event a considerable number of the bolls are made up into a package which is wrapped with a leaf or two of hoja blanca. Such a bundle is usually tied with a piece of pitigua and in this form may be stored for an indefinite period. In the bundle shown in pl. CVII, 12, a section of the wrapping has been torn away in order to show the contents. When it is desired to prepare the cotton for use, the bolls are cleaned of the seeds and of any foreign matter that may have become mixed with the fibers, since the presence of any foreign substance interferes materially with spinning. In this

3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
SD 6 Cayapa SD6

248
283
485

GIRDLES, FILLET, AND SPINNING MATERIALS

[p. 252(A)]